

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Applicant has submitted a new complete claim set showing marked up claims with insertions indicated by underlining and deletions indicated by strikeouts and/or double bracketing.

Please amend claims 1 and 2.

Please add new claims 6-19.

1. (Currently amended) A system for dispensing a metered volume of heated water from ~~the a~~ storage tank to ~~the a~~ brew chamber of a single serve beverage brewer, said system comprising:

a metering chamber;

a supply conduit connecting the storage tank to said metering chamber, the metering chamber being physically separate and remote from the storage tank;

a delivery conduit connecting said metering chamber to the brew chamber; and

air-activated means for withdrawing heated water from said storage tank into said metering chamber via said supply conduit, and for expelling heated water from said metering chamber via said delivery conduit to said brew chamber.

2. (Currently amended) The system of claim 1 A system for dispensing a metered volume of heated water from a storage tank to a brew chamber of a single serve beverage brewer, said system comprising:

a metering chamber;

a supply conduit connecting the storage tank to said metering chamber;

a delivery conduit connecting said metering chamber to the brew chamber; and

air-activated means for withdrawing heated water from said storage tank into said metering chamber via said supply conduit, and for expelling heated water from said metering chamber via said delivery conduit to said brew chamber;

wherein said air-activated means comprises an air pump having suction and discharge conduits; and valve means operative in one mode for connecting said suction and discharge conduits respectively to said metering cup and to atmosphere to draw heated water from the storage tank via

said supply conduit into said metering chamber while preventing water flow through said delivery conduit, and operative in an alternative mode for connecting said suction and discharge conduits respectively to atmosphere and to said metering chamber to expel heated water via said delivery conduit to said brew chamber while preventing water flow through said supply conduit.

3. (Original) The system of claim 2 wherein said valve means includes first and second valves located respectively in said supply and delivery conduits, a third valve for alternately connecting said suction conduit to atmosphere and to said metering chamber, and a fourth valve for alternately connecting said discharge conduit to atmosphere and to said metering chamber.

4. (Original) The system of claim 3 wherein said third and fourth valves are connected to a common conduit leading to said metering chamber.

5. (Original) The system of claim 4 further comprising barrier means in said common conduit for safeguarding said air pump against ingestion of water and water vapor from said metering chamber.

6. (New) A beverage forming system comprising:
a storage tank adapted to hold liquid used in forming at least one beverage;
a metering chamber in fluid communication with the storage tank and adapted to receive a volume of liquid from the storage tank, the metering chamber being physically separate and remote from the storage tank;
a brew chamber in fluid communication with the metering chamber and adapted to receive a metered volume of liquid from the metering chamber for use in forming the at least one beverage;
and
a liquid supply system adapted to cause flow of liquid from the storage tank to the metering chamber, the liquid supply system including a conduit that provides fluid communication between the storage tank and the metering chamber.

7. (New) The system of claim 6, wherein the liquid supply system includes a fluid pump that causes flow of liquid from the storage tank to the metering chamber.
8. (New) The system of claim 6, further comprising a sensor adapted to sense a liquid level in the metering chamber.
9. (New) The system of claim 8, wherein information regarding the liquid level sensed by the sensor is used to control the liquid supply system.
10. (New) The system of claim 6, wherein the liquid supply system is adapted to cause flow of liquid from the storage tank to the metering chamber for a predetermined period of time so as to effect partial fill of the metering chamber.
11. (New) The system of claim 6, further comprising a heater that heats water provided to the brew chamber.
12. (New) The system of claim 6, wherein the liquid supply system is adapted to cause flow of liquid from the metering chamber to the brew chamber.
13. (New) The system of claim 12, wherein the liquid supply system includes an air pump that delivers pressurized air to the metering chamber to cause flow of the liquid from the metering chamber to the brew chamber.
14. (New) The system of claim 6, further comprising a vent that is openable to allow liquid to flow into the metering chamber.

15. (New) The system of claim 6, wherein liquid provided from the metering chamber to the brew chamber is heated.

16. (New) The system of claim 6, wherein the brew chamber is adapted to receive a disposable beverage cartridge, and is adapted to pierce the disposable beverage cartridge and introduce liquid from the metering chamber into the beverage cartridge.

17. (New) The system of claim 16, wherein the disposable beverage cartridge includes a beverage medium contained within a filter element, and liquid introduced into the disposable beverage cartridge contacts the beverage medium and passes through the filter element to form the at least one beverage.

18. (New) The system of claim 17, wherein the beverage medium includes roasted ground coffee.

19. (New) The system of claim 6, wherein the liquid supply system is adapted to cause flow of liquid from the storage tank to the metering chamber so as to effect partial fill of the metering chamber.